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GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTE

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Prayer Meeting Address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham on  
Saturday evening 17.5.75

Hymns 911, 980

Reading Psalm 42

The Psalm is strikingly experimental and may reveal the feelings in particular of some that are here this night. It has two or three points and the first is a panting after God, thirsting for God, thirsting for Him like a thirsty hart panting after the water brooks. That was his feeling - thirsting for God. This is religion; if we have it that will end well, the end will be better than the beginning; if our religion is a real one this will find it out. Thirsting for God, not making a todo about a great experience, but thirsting for God, we have a confession of his feeling, "O my God, my soul is cast down within me". He was in very distressing circumstances at this time, and evidently for the time being driven from the throne and from his palace, but not from his God.

"My soul is cast down within me". How many of us have come like this; or if we have not come like this have we come panting after the water brooks? Yet in the end we find him expostulating about these points and saying, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? There may be many reasons for this with many of the Lord's people in these dark days and yet there is a timely expostulation, "Why art thou cast down... Hope thou in God for I shall yet praise Him". This is faith looking over the difficulties, the faith of one that for the time being was driven from the city but not from his God, "Hope thou in God" what ever conditions may prevail, let not circumstances kill your religion, damp your faith; "hope thou in God". He looks forward, he does not say 'I shall die in despair' but "I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God". So it may be with disturbed and troubled ones as some may be; here is a direction, "Hope thou in God", "Trust in Him at all times" and deliverance will come for "He is the health of my countenance", the countenance of my soul indicating a healthy state of soul. Sometimes the outward countenance of one whom the Lord favours appears a healthy countenance under a sense of the Lord's favour and blessing. So I conclude these few remarks with this expostulation "Why art thou cast down?". We know what the Psalmist's trouble was, we know what our own trouble is, but whatever the circumstances, here is the remedy, "Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God. Amen.

Further reading John 14 from v.27